

General Assembly Does Time at Indiana Department of Correction

For Immediate Release

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“Everything we do moving forward will be systemic, recognizable and measurable. I work for you, the tax payers of Indiana and the Department. I will make sure that we, as an agency, operate effectively and efficiently.”

- J. David Donahue

Commissioner J. David Donahue recently hosted a three-day tour of six correctional facilities around the state to highlight business objectives, operations and new initiatives. The event provided members of the general assembly, local officials, community advisory board members and media insight on what takes place inside the walls of Indiana prisons.

“This is an expensive business, and budgets are the backbone of what this agency does,” said Donahue. “The Department needs to operate more efficiently and make sure that we reduce the \$656 million spent annually on Indiana's prisons. Budget and capacity management are intertwined; we need to make efficient use of the taxpayer’s dollars.”

Ninety-seven percent of offenders return to the community. Identifying opportunities before the inmates re-enter society, at no additional cost to the tax payer, is top priority for the Department.

Creating a launch pad for successful re-entry, especially by focusing on housing, employment and transportation is a priority for the Department.

The [CLIFF treatment center](#) which deals with meth recovery, and the [PLUS program](#), which emphasizes spiritual or character development as a central theme of its curriculum, are two new initiatives recently launched by redeploying the Department’s assets.

The [Wabash Valley Correctional Facility](#) tour included a visit of the youthful offenders, Prison Enterprises Network (PEN) Products, the new CLIFF meth treatment unit and the Recreation center. A short demonstration of the Prison Trails program was attended by Senator John Waterman, Representatives Bruce Borders, Vern Tincher, Clyde Kersey and Sheriff Steve Luce.

The [Westville Correctional Facility](#) tour included a bus tour of Prison Trails, K-9 Drill Teams, Eyeglass Recycling and a tour of the production kitchen. The [Indiana State Prison](#) tour included a SERT (Special Emergency Response Team) hostage situation drill, tour of a cell house and PEN Products Digital

License plates. Attendees included Senators Tom Wyss, Gary Dillon, Anita Bowser, Victor Heinold, and Representatives Jacqueline Walorski, Vernon Smith, Charlie Brown and Mary Kay Budak.

The [Plainfield Correctional Facility](#), [Reception Diagnostic Center](#) and [Plainfield Juvenile Correctional Facility](#) tour were attended by Senators Richard Bray and Marvin Riegsecker and Representatives Philip Hinkle, Jeff Thompson, James Buck, Dick Dodge, Woody Burton, Ralph Foley and Matthew Bell.

Tour Images

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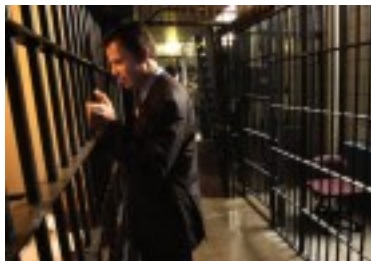


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